IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 10 – 12 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants are reserving the right to prosecute these claims by way of a continuation application.

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1. (currently amended) A laser source comprising:

a laser medium having a back facet and a front surface, wherein said laser medium emits a laser beam through said front surface into an external cavity;

a cavity end mirror~~wherein the laser medium emits a laser beam through the front surface into an external cavity defined in length by a cavity end mirror reflecting the~~ that defines a length of said external cavity and reflects said laser beam back towards ~~the~~ said laser medium, wherein ~~the~~ said cavity end mirror is curved~~, and~~;

a wavelength tunable filter arranged between ~~the~~ said laser medium and ~~the~~ said cavity end mirror ~~for tuning the~~ and being tunable to a wavelength of ~~the~~ said laser beam to provide a resonant beam within said external cavity~~;~~;

a focussing optics that focuses said laser beam on said cavity end mirror,

wherein ~~the~~ said laser medium, ~~the~~ said wavelength tunable filter, said beam splitter, said focussing optics and ~~the~~ said cavity end mirror are arranged in a spatially linear cavity structure substantially in a line without angular redirection of ~~the~~ said laser beam in ~~the~~ said external cavity ~~between the laser medium and the cavity end mirror, and~~

~~a beam splitter arranged so that at least one portion of the laser beam within the cavity after passing the wavelength tunable filter and before again passing the laser medium is coupled out as an output beam of the laser source~~.

2. (currently amended) The laser source of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a beam splitter ~~is provided~~ between ~~the~~ said wavelength tunable filter and ~~the~~ said laser

medium ~~for coupling out an output beam~~ that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

3. (currently amended) The laser source ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said back facet of ~~the~~ said laser medium is ~~provided to be~~ partly transparent~~, so that~~ and couples out a portion of ~~the laser~~ said resonant beam ~~within the cavity is coupled out as a second output beam of the laser source~~.

4. (currently amended) The laser source ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~the~~ said laser medium or ~~the~~ said cavity end mirror is movable in ~~the~~ a linear direction of ~~the~~ said spatially linear cavity structure ~~in order~~ to adjust ~~the~~ an optical path length of ~~the~~ said external cavity ~~to the wavelength tuning provided~~ commensurate with a tuning of said wavelength by ~~the~~ said wavelength tunable filter.

5. (currently amended) The laser source of claim 4, further comprising a synchronizing unit ~~adapted synchronizing the~~ that synchronizes said optical path length ~~of the cavity with the wavelength tuning provided~~ with said tuning of said wavelength by ~~the~~ said wavelength tunable filter ~~in order to provide the~~ so that said laser beam ~~to be~~ is substantially mode hop free ~~when tuning the wavelength~~ during said tuning.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The laser source of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said cavity end mirror is partly transparent ~~for coupling out an output beam~~ that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

8. (currently amended) The laser source of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a beam splitter ~~is provided~~ between ~~the~~ said wavelength tunable filter and ~~the~~ said cavity end mirror ~~for coupling out an output beam~~ that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

Please add the following claims, newly numbered as claims 13 – 19.

13. (new) A laser source comprising:

a laser medium that emits a laser beam into a cavity;

a curved mirror, at an end of said cavity, that reflects said laser beam back towards said laser medium;

a lens that focuses said laser beam onto said curved mirror; and

a filter, between said laser medium and said curved mirror, being tunable to a wavelength of said laser beam to provide a resonant beam within said cavity,

wherein said filter, said lens and said curved mirror are linearly situated in a path of said laser beam.

14. (new) The laser source of claim 13, wherein said curved mirror is partly transparent and couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

15. (new) The laser source of claim 13, wherein said laser medium has a partly transparent back facet that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

16. (new) The laser source of claim 13, further comprising a beam splitter, between said filter and said laser medium, that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

17. (new) The laser source of claim 13, further comprising a beam splitter, between said filter and said curved mirror, that couples out a portion of said resonant beam.

18. (new) The laser source of claim 13, wherein at least one of said laser medium or said curved mirror is movable to adjust a length of said path commensurate with a tuning of said filter.

19. (new) The laser source of claim 18, further comprising a device that synchronizes an adjustment of said length with said tuning of said filter.